SIG's, or Special Interest Groups, are AHEAD members organized around an interest or concern. SIG's provide leadership to the AHEAD membership by providing information and referral, organizing professional development opportunities, and networking around a particular topic.  Contact: Board Liaison – Amanda Kraus, University of Arizona

# [ADA Coordinators](https://www.ahead.org/sigs/ada-coordinators)

Responds to members' concerns about education, communication and training for persons charged with ADA compliance for their campuses. Contact:

Emily Lucio, *Johns Hopkins University* Gabriel Merrell, *Oregon State University*

# Autism/Aspergers

The Autism/Aspergers Special Interest Group provides information and resources for professionals working with students with Autism. As this challenging population on college campuses continues to grow, the SIG will sponsor conference session and have a listserv to share ideas and resources. Contacts:

[Jane Thierfeld Brown](mailto:jane.brown@yale.edu" \o "email Jane), *College Autism Spectrum* Michelle Rigler, *University of Tennessee*

# [Blind and Low Vision](https://www.ahead.org/sigs/blind-and-low-vision" \o ")

Using an equity lens and foundation in social justice, the Blind and Low Vision SIG provides supports and resources to DS offices in order to increase equity and access for students who are blind and low vision.. Contacts:

Billy Parker, *National Industries for the Blind* Jewls Harris, *Portland State University*

[Chris Turner](mailto:turnerc@mpcc.edu), *Mid-Plains Community College*

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# Career Planning/Placement

Offers practical strategies on how to empower students and human resource managers to recruit, hire, train, and promote qualified college graduates with disabilities in today's diversified work force. Contacts:

[Ronnie Porter](mailto:v.porter@neu.edu)*, Northeastern University* [Tracey Forman](mailto:traceyf@disability.tamu.edu)*, Texas A&M University*

[Marci Shaffer](mailto:Marci_Shaffer@yahoo.com)*, Connecting College Students with Disabilities to Employers*

# [Community Colleges](https://www.ahead.org/sigs/community-colleges" \o ")

Serves as a forum for dissemination of information and promotion of shared problem solving around the unique issues concerning disabilities and community and junior colleges. Contacts:

[Jennifer Radt](mailto:jennifer.radt@uc.edu)*, University of Cincinnati* [Teressa Eastman](mailto:teastman@butlercc.edu), *Butler Community College*

**[Deaf & Hard of Hearing](http://ahead.org/sigs/dhh" \t "_blank)**

Promotes postsecondary education equity for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. Contacts:

[Lauren MB Kinast](mailto:LKinast@austin.utexas.edu), *University of Texas at Austin* [Cassie Franklin](mailto:cassief@uwm.edu)*, University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee*

# [Disability Studies](https://www.ahead.org/sigs/disability-studies)

Promotes an awareness of the discipline of disability studies and provides a forum for discussion of current issues and trends in disability studies. AHEAD members who are interested in the field of disability studies are encouraged to attend Disability Studies SIG meetings and join the Society for Disability Studies, [www.disstudies.org](http://www.disstudies.org/). Contacts:

[Karen Pettus](mailto:KAREN@mailbox.sc.edu)*, University of South Carolina* [Susan Mann Dolce](mailto:samann@buffalo.edu)*, University at Buffalo*

# [Graduate and Professional Students-"GAP"](https://www.ahead.org/sigs/graduate-students)

Purpose is to help bridge the GAP experienced by many service providers and students with disabilities in graduate and professional programs. Contacts:

[Joanna Boval](mailto:jboval@ucsd.edu)*, University of California, San Diego* [Timothy Montgomery](mailto:Timothy.montgomery@ucsf.edu), *University of California, San Francisco*

# [LD - AD/HD](https://www.ahead.org/sigs/ld-adhd)

Purpose is to collaboratively address the current and salient issues of students with learning disabilities (LD) and Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD) in the postsecondary setting and the professionals who work with them. Contacts: Shawna Foose *, Tulane University* Stacy C. Lee*, University of North Alabama*

# [LGBTQA SIG](https://www.ahead.org/sigs/LGBTQA)

The LGBTQA Special Interest Group (SIG) will serve two primary groups of AHEAD members, 1) those who are LGBTQA-identified, and 2) those who would like more information on the LGBTQ community so as to better serve those students on our respective campuses. Contacts:

Jen Dugger*, Portland State University* Teryn Robinson*, Lake Forest College*

# Nutrition & Dietary Accommodations

The Nutrition & Dietary Accommodations Special Interest Group seeks to support students with food-related disabilities having equal opportunity to participate in campus dining programs. Our goal is to promote collaboration between disability services, dining services, and campus operations to ensure that students have healthy and safe food options. AHEAD members who have questions about the nutritional impact of a medical diagnosis or how to effectively implement dietary accommodations are welcome to participate.

Contact: Samira Abedini*, University of California, Davis*

# Online and Distance Learning

The online and distance learning SIG provides AHEAD members with an opportunity to learn more about the unique challenges of accommodating students with disabilities in online and distance learning. The SIG also offers members an opportunity to share resources and strategies as well as to network with others who are working with online courses at their institutions. Contact: Kelly Hermann*, University of Phoenix*

# [Private Colleges (formerly) Independent Colleges and Universities](https://www.ahead.org/sigs/private_colleges" \o ")

The Private Colleges SIG offers AHEAD members representing private colleges and universities an opportunity to create a network of DS providers at these types of schools and address the issues and concerns unique to our institutions. This group serves as an advocate for private colleges and informs the AHEAD administration of issues relevant to us. Contacts: [Lori Colchagoff](mailto:lcolchagoff@findlay.edu), *Findlay University*

# [Mental Health Disability](https://www.ahead.org/sigs/psychology" \o ")

The mission of the Mental Health Disability Special Interest Group is to improve services and the campus climate for students with psychiatric disabilities. This is accomplished by establishing a network for disability service providers, providing a forum to get answers to their questions, sharing useful resources, and developing and promoting the use of best practices to provide equal access to higher education for students with psychiatric disabilities. Contacts: Barbara Blacklock*, University of Minnesota*

# [Racial and Ethnic Diversity and Disability](https://www.ahead.org/sigs/redd)

Aims to increase the awareness of AHEAD members on issues of diversity pertaining to students from historically underrepresented groups. Contacts:

[Crystal Hill (Chair)](mailto:crystalh@uca.edu), *University Of Central Arkansas* [Katy Washington (Co-Chair)](mailto:katywash@uark.edu), *University of Arkansas*

[Chinwendu Okoronkwo (Secretary)](mailto:cookoron@uark.edu)*, University of Arkansas*

# Student Athletes with Disabilities

The purpose of this SIG is two-fold: to discuss issues and best practices as they relate to student-athletes with disabilities in existing varsity sports and to discuss ways to increase athletic opportunities on college campuses for students with disabilities. Contact: [Matt Springer](mailto:mtspring@ius.edu), *Indiana University Southeast*

# Technology

The AHEAD Special Interest Group on Technology provides a means for members to learn about, and get connected with, resources that are critical to the intersection of disability and technology in higher education today. The purpose of the Technology Special Interest Group (SIG) is twofold:

* To facilitate collaboration and connections between members who are curious about, or engaged within, work related to accessibility of technology at colleges and universities.
* To provide a means by which members can identify resources helpful to their professional work

Current Chairs:

[Sheryl Burgstahler](mailto:sherylb@uw.edu), *University of Washington* [Terrill Thompson](mailto:tft@uw.edu), *University of Washington*

# Veterans

The purpose of this SIG is to bring awareness of the unique skills and knowledge required to work effectively with veterans with disabilities in higher education. This SIG will provide a forum for discussion of current issues and a network/clearing house/liaison for AHEAD members on veterans' issues. Also, this SIG will sponsor and promote scholarly research about student veterans with disabilities and conduct outreach activities to other professional organizations working with veterans with disabilities in higher education. Contacts:

[Jorja Waybrant](mailto:waybrantj@uncsa.edu), *UNC School of the Arts* [Dan Standage](mailto:dan.standage@studentveterans.org), *Student Veterans of America*

**For more information visit https://www.ahead.org/sigs**